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LETTER DATED 13 OCTOBER 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 12 October 1991 from Mr. Ahmad Hussein, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the statement made on 9 October 1991 by Marlin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman, to the effect that the United States of America is providing Israel with the intelligence it has obtained on Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdul Amir A. AL-ANBARI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 12 October 1991 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to our letter to you of 6 October 1991 concerning the penetration of Iraqi airspace by Israeli war-planes on 4 October and to the reactions subsequently voiced by many countries with regard to the violation of Iraq's airspace and that of other Arab countries. In this connection, the statement made on 9 October 1991 by Marlin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman, in the course of his comments on this action gave us pause. He is reported to have said that the United States understands Israel's concern but that the United States authorities were already providing "Israel" with intelligence on the alleged Iraqi danger and particularly on weapons of mass destruction.

This explicit acknowledgement on the part of the spokesman of the United States White House that the United States Administration is providing Israel with intelligence on Iraqi military secrets exposes the true state of affairs that we have long indicated to you in our letters, namely that the United States is using the Special Commission and the inspection teams as a cover for its espionage activities against Iraq. The information obtained by the United States Administration through the Special Commission and the inspection teams on Iraq's military secrets goes directly to Israel.

I should like to refer you in particular to our letter to you of 19 August 1991 in which I asked to receive from you an assurance that the intelligence and photographs gathered by the United States U-2 spy aircraft would remain in the custody of the United Nations and be used to serve the purposes of the Special Commission established by Security Council resolution 687 (1991). I have not, unfortunately, thus far received from you any such assurance. It has come to light that the intelligence and photographs gathered by this American aircraft, which is flown by an American pilot and takes off from an American base in Saudi Arabia, do not represent an independent source of information but that the intelligence and photographs go first to the United States and then to the party identified by Mr. Fitzwater in his statement.

In another respect, you perhaps recall that in my letter to you of 2 August 1991 I expressed concern at the fact that the Special Commission uses a majority of United States inspectors in the composition of its teams, while no one can be unaware that the United States is persisting in its pursuit of a hostile and biased policy against Iraq. That letter was written following the revelation that the Chief of the sixth inspection team, Mr. David Kay, had transmitted Iraqi documents directly to his superiors in Washington and not to the Special Commission, thereby confirming Iraq's suspicions that the Government of the United States was using the Special Commission and the United Nations as a cover for systematic espionage operations against Iraq. Then, today, there comes the statement of Mr. Fitzwater to complete a circle

of facts that has demonstrated that the intelligence, photographs and documents gathered by the Special Commission are ultimately going to Israel. This represents a grave threat to Iraq's national security and is incompatible with the role of an Organization among whose priorities is the preservation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of its Member States.

In light of the facts we have referred to above and in light of the recent military and media escalation against Iraq, among whose manifestations has been the recent Israel violation of Iraq's airspace and that of other Arab States, we urge you to re-examine the procedures and practices of the Special Commission in order to ensure that they do not exceed its mandate as laid down in Security Council resolution 687 (1991).

That you should make such a re-examination is a pressing matter that is enjoined by the need to preserve the credibility of the United Nations and of its role as set forth in the Charter, and in particular with regard to respect for Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity, just as it is required by the constraints of preserving the security and stability of the region.

We request you to have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ahmad HUSSEIN
Minister for Foreign Affairs